

Nichol, Eric@DeltaCouncil

From: Mirmazaheri, Mike [mikemi@water.ca.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 23, 2011 1:32 PM
To: Nichol, Eric@DeltaCouncil; dmraz@water.ca.gov
Cc: ngmplcs@pacbell.net; Bob Orcutt (borcutt@dfg.ca.gov); Wright, Jon; Tyson, Charles A.; tfrink@water.ca.gov; Newton, Gail@WATER BOARDS; Mirmazaheri, Mike

Eric,

In the process of facilitating the implementation of projects to reinforce sections of levee on islands with potential to suffer breaches or failures and cause harm to aqueducts that cross the Delta (CWC Section 83002) Department of Water Resources' (DWR) environmental scientists have reviewed the lead agencies' scopes of work and environmental documents to determine compliance with CEQA. The Reclamation Districts (RD) applying for funds are the lead agencies for their proposed projects, and both DWR and the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) serve as responsible agencies. The RDs have provided information for Project Funding Agreement (PFA) OP-10-1.0 from Orwood/Palm Tract, PFA RL-10-2.0 from Lower Roberts Island, PFA UJ-10-2.0 on Upper Jones Tract, and PFA WD-10-2.0 on Woodward Island,

Based on our understanding of the existing conditions at each construction site, including habitat values and the RD proposed treatment under CEQA as presented in the projects' CEQA Determination Analysis and Biological Resource Assessment, DWR concurs with the determination that the work is exempt from CEQA under the Class 1 Categorical Exemption for Existing Facilities (Article 19, Section 15301 of the CEQA Guidelines). This determination by DWR in no way limits the DSC in its role as a responsible agency under CEQA.

Please contact me at (916) 651-7016 (office) or (916) 952-9994 (cell) with questions or comments on this matter.

I wish you and all my colleagues at the Delta Stewardship Council a very happy holiday season.

Respectfully,

Mike Mirmazaheri, Manager

Delta Levees Program

Delta Levees and Environmental Engineering Branch FloodSAFE Environmental Stewardship and
Statewide Resources Office Department of Water Resources